



What is the SNAP Online Purchasing Flexibility Act?

A bill which would require the Secretary to allow all States, which meet the necessary requirements, to participate in the online purchasing program by allowing approved retail food stores to accept on-line transactions SNAP benefits.

What does the bill do?

It suspends section 7(k)(4)(A) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 during the period in which the COVID-19 public health emergency is declared, removing the Secretary's authority to decide which States may participate in the program, allowing all States, which meet the necessary requirements, to participate in the online purchasing program.

Who does this affect?

Millions of people who receive SNAP benefits. This is particularly important now, as American's across the country are encouraged to stay at home to slow down the spread of COVID-19. This may be critical for people who are at a higher risk of becoming severely ill if they contract the virus.

How can States begin this process?

The State's SNAP agency could reach out to their FNS regional office today.

If States decide to participate how will they pay for the additional costs?

States will automatically be reimbursed for their share of administrative costs under section 16 of the Act.

Will there be a need for additional money to help with the rollout?

No money is needed because section 7(k) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, and the Department of Agriculture, are continuously funded by existing appropriations Acts.

Will States be allowed to still participate in the program after the pandemic?

Yes, Because the public health emergency is already in effect, and participation will be continuous from the enactment date

Does the bill require USDA to issue national guidance for States?

FNS has already published a comprehensive document that covers all aspects of participation in the online purchasing program on their website.

What are the reporting requirements?

The reporting requirements applicable to the pilot program will be extended to new participating States.

To cosponsor the bill, please visit: tinyurl.com/Endorse-SNAP-Online

To endorse the bill, please visit: tinyurl.com/Cosponsor-SNAP-Online

For more information contact Maria Martirosyan in Rep. Omar's office at Maria.Martirosyan@Mail.House.Gov

